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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable NORM COLEMAN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, source of the light that never dims and of the love that never fails, light of our life, empower us to live blameless and upright, so that we will have a future of peace. Thank You for both joys and sorrows, for they lead us nearer to You. Thank You also for the signs of Your presence in our world and for the coming day when Your will shall be done on Earth, even as it is done in Heaven. Remember our Senators. Strengthen and encourage them. Give them a faith that can overcome all obstacles. May they never cast away their confidence in You. Fill each of us with the joy and peace that comes from believing in You. We pray this in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable NORM COLEMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The assistant journal clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 31, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable NORM COLEMAN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COLEMAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning, the Senate will conduct a period of morning business until 10 a.m., with the first half of the time under the control of the majority leader and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader.

At 10 a.m., the Senate will conduct 90 minutes of debate prior to appointing conferees with respect to the budget resolution. Following that action, the Senate will resume consideration of the welfare reauthorization bill.

Last night, we were compelled to file cloture on the committee substitute to that bill. That cloture vote will occur tomorrow. We hope cloture will be invoked to allow us to finish this very important piece of legislation, the welfare reauthorization bill. I do hope we will be able to move forward today with germane amendments to the welfare reauthorization bill and make progress over the course of the day. Rollcall votes are possible. Senators will be notified when the first vote is scheduled.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until 10 a.m. The first half of the time will be under the control of the majority leader or his designee. The final time will be under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

The majority leader.

ACTION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND SENATE DEMOCRATS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on leader time, I would like to just make a couple comments on two events that took place last Wednesday.

On that day, two organizations made decisions that were very disappointing to me. One of those organizations was the European Union and the other was the Senate Democrats. I was disappointed by the Senate Democrats because they chose to filibuster a very important piece of legislation that is critical to our jobs base, to our manufacturing jobs base. That bill is called "Jumpstart Our Business Strength, (JOBS) Act," which is an important bill. In fact, the title itself—"Jumpstart Our Business Strength"—underscores the importance of this manufacturing jobs bill.

I was also disappointed by the European Union's action to impose a record fine of \$610 million against a company, Microsoft, because it, frankly, demonstrates arrogance. I think—arrogance—requiring Microsoft to sell a version of Windows that we are all familiar with without the built-in ability to play audio files or video files.

I mention both of these incidents really almost in the same breath because they occurred on the very same day last week, and they are illustrative of the choice that is facing America and Americans today.

I released a statement last week and pointed out these overreaching attempts to register e-commerce. They

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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include trade barriers against American beef and other agricultural products, and they all demonstrate the European Union relentlessly pursuing these protectionist policies that disproportionately harm America's workers.

The JOBS Act is a bill that is absolutely critical for us to address. As I said, the fact that the Democrats chose to filibuster that bill has been very disappointing to me. It was developed in a strong bipartisan fashion, coming through the Finance Committee with every single Democrat on the committee voting in favor of the bill, including the Democratic leader and the junior Senator from Massachusetts.

It is absolutely essential that we address this bill and that we pass this bill in order to accelerate job creation in this country. The purpose of it is to bring our trade laws in compliance with our trade agreements and at the same time provide some of the badly needed reforms to further stimulate manufacturing growth. I mention both of these issues because I think both need to continue to be addressed. I hope we can work out an appropriate arrangement to address the JOBS bill in the very near future.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Virginia.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry. What is the current order?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate is in morning business.

The majority controls 9 minutes.

Mr. WARNER. Fine. Thank you. Mr. President, I desire to speak, say, for 7 minutes, and then I would be happy to engage in a colloquy or otherwise with my colleagues on the other side.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. If the Chair would allow me to respond to the Senator from Virginia, the majority has 9 minutes and we have 9 minutes; is that correct?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority has 13½ minutes.

Mr. REID. The minority has what?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority has 13½ minutes.

Mr. REID. So the majority leader used morning business time?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. And the majority's time is currently running.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to the distinguished Senator from Virginia, you are to go first today under the order that has been entered, and then we would go next.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority has 8 minutes.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Chair.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield for a moment. How much time do we have on the majority side?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Eight minutes.

Mr. WARNER. Shall I divide it with my distinguished colleague?

Mr. LOTT. I see Senator ALLARD may wish to speak, too.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, if I may enter into the colloquy, I was asked to make some comments this morning, and I will be glad to do that, but my time is flexible and I can speak just briefly on what has happened to the economy.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority has 7 minutes 30 seconds.

The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I will just take 3 minutes, and then I will yield to my colleague, the distinguished Senator from Colorado.

Mr. ALLARD. I thank the Senator.

U.S. AND COALITION EFFORTS IN IRAQ

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, with enormous enthusiasm and pride I rise today to commend President Bush and his national security team for the continually strong leadership they are providing in the ongoing global war on terrorism, and particularly as they assist the Iraqi people in their imminent transition to sovereignty.

Almost 1 year ago, a coalition of nations, led by the U.S. Armed Forces, and, indeed, those from Great Britain, liberated the Iraqi people from decades of repressive, tyrannical rule at the hands of Saddam Hussein. That day, April 9, will long be celebrated in the history of Iraq.

Our President did the right thing—he did the right thing—in gathering a coalition of nations to rid Iraq of a leader who had used weapons of mass destruction against his own people, who had a regime of over 30 years of tyrannical oppression, murdered indiscriminately. This individual simply had to be brought to the terms of accountability, accountability to his own people. That orderly process is now under way. He defied international law for over 12 years. Clearly America and the world are safer today, and Iraq is a better place with a hopeful future as a result.

Tragically, the effort to make America and the world safer and to defend freedom around the world is not without an enormous cost to this Nation in terms primarily of lost lives and those who bear the scars and the wounds of war, and their families who must bear these losses. They have our deepest compassion. I extend my heartfelt sympathies to the families of the loved ones of those who have died and those who bear the wounds of combat. We are fortunate as a Nation to have dedicated citizens who willingly volunteer to make such great sacrifices to defend this Nation's liberty.

Just weeks ago, together with the distinguished Senator from Alaska and the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, I went to Iraq and Afghani-

stan and again looked into the faces of those brave young men and women and thanked them on behalf of the people of this Nation.

In just 3 months—91 days to be exact—the sovereignty that has been held in trust by the Coalition Provisional Authority since Iraq was liberated on April 9, 2003, will be returned to the Iraqi people. This will represent an important milestone on Iraq's path to freedom and democracy, but it is a path fraught with continuing dangers.

The recently adopted "Transitional Administrative Law" states that "the work of the [Iraq] Governing Council shall come to an end" upon the assumption of sovereignty by an Iraqi Interim Government on June 30, 2004. The TAL further states that this Iraqi Interim Government "shall be constituted in accordance with a process of extensive deliberations and consultations with cross-sections of the Iraqi people conducted by the Governing Council and the Coalition Provisional Authority and possibly in consultation with the United Nations."

Yesterday, the Armed Services Committee, which I am privileged to chair, received testimony from several Department of Defense officials regarding on-going military operations and activities in Iraq, and preparations for this transition to sovereignty. While some concerns about details of the transition remain, I was greatly encouraged by the testimony the Committee received. A coordinated process of deliberation and consultation with the Iraqi people is underway by the Coalition Provisional Authority, the Iraqi Governing Council, and representatives of the United Nations to define and select an Iraqi Interim Government.

Much remains to be done in this process, but it is a process that must not be delayed. The moment has arrived for the coalition to move from occupying power to partner. The moment has arrived for the Iraqi people to assume responsibility for their destiny.

The path to full freedom and democracy in Iraq will not be without difficulty and missteps. That is to be expected, but we must not be afraid to continue that journey. Symbolically, much will change on June 30. Iraq, after 30 plus years of isolation, will rejoin the community of nations and resume responsibility for its actions and relations with other nations. In terms of the reconstruction and security efforts initiated by the Coalition Provisional Authority and coalition forces, little will change on July 1. Ongoing training of Iraqi Security Forces, assistance in restoring security, revitalization of essential infrastructure, and institutionalization of democratic processes will continue.

Two weeks ago, I traveled to Iraq, together with Senator STEVENS and Senator HOLLINGS. I was impressed by the progress that has been made since I last visited that nation in July. The challenges ahead are daunting, but the